

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/698,143
Attorney Docket No. Q60866

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 have been examined. Claims 2, 18, 20-25, 34, 36 and 38-46 are allowed (*see* Advisory Action dated December 15, 2003). Furthermore, claims 9, 13, 17, 27-31, 33, 35, 37 and 48-50 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim (*see* Final Office Action dated August 19, 2003: page 9). However, the Examiner acknowledges that claims 9, 13, 17, 27-31, 33, 35, 37 and 48-50 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (*Id.*). Claims 1, 3-8, 10-12, 14-16, 19, 26, 32 and 47 are rejected.

Applicants place the application in condition for immediate allowance by canceling, without prejudice or disclaimer, rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-12, 14-16, 19, 26, 32 and 47 and rewriting claims 9, 13, 17, 27-31, 33, 35, 37 and 48 in independent form, while correcting the dependency of claims 49 and 50.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 13, 2004